

# Mutual Assistance



Ambassador W. Averell Harriman, (above) Special Representative in Europe of the European Recovery Program, takes charge of the Paris office in the Talleyrand.

Harriman (left) negotiating with the OEEC

Delegates to the OEEC waited apprehensively for the U.S. to divide the aid among the 17 European recipients. Instead they received astonishing news: The Europeans themselves must decide.

The OEEC created an independent subgroup, the "Committee of Four," to evaluate aid requests from participating countries, including in 1949, the new Federal Republic of Germany. Under the plan, local officials in participating OEEC countries proposed projects for reconstruction, trade, and economic integration. After OEEC and ECA approval, these projects went forward, speeding the recovery of Western Europe.

OEEC member countries were: Austria, Belgium, Denmark, France, Great Britain, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, and West Germany. ECA also supported some projects in West Berlin, Trieste, and Yugoslavia.

Today, the spirit and work of the Marshall Plan continues through the OEEC's successor, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), encouraging free trade and economic integration in Europe and around the globe.



Signing the treaty establishing the European Coal and Steel Community (Schuman Plan) April 8, 1951



OEEC delegates during the briefing